

SCRIPT #4 - WEEK OF AUGUST 6, 1940.

ANNOUNCER:

"WPA HEADLINES OF THE WEEK!" Good _____
everyone! This is another of YOUR personal programs -
a quarter hour devoted to news and information concerning
YOUR community. Each week at this time you are informed a s to
what is happening INSIDE WPA, and just how the work of this
Federal Agency affects your community.

Today's presentation is a brief sketch illustrating the
work of the WPA in training citizens for defense jobs. At
the conclusion of the broadcast you will hear an important
announcement concerning the training program. And now
we'd like to have you meet a recent high school graduate
with a yen for aviation (FADE) His story is an
interesting one --

FRED: (A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OF THIS YEAR - HE'S A HEALTHY FELLOW BUBBLING OVER WITH ENTHUSIASM AND EXCITEMENT)

Planes are the real thing! But before you fly 'em, you've got to know all about 'em. Yes sir! you've got to begin right down on the ground where they build 'em! And plane construction is pretty important right now. That's why I'm talking the way I am. You see... But let me tell you my name. It's Fred Sloane. And how are you, Well, when I graduated from high school last year, college was away out in front. I mean, Dad didn't have the money to pack me off to a cap and gown factory. And as for the job, well! But don't get me wrong! I tried. Just no go. So..... with nothing to do and with a lot of ideas about planes in my head and Tech School playing "button-button" with Dad's pocketbook.... I was bound to get off on the wrong foot. And all because of J. Waldron-Smith. who had a hyphen in his name, and a private flying field and a brand new monoplane job. Well, I was on my way to inspect this (Fade) new ship when I caught Mary following me. She was a pest!

MUSIC IS IN ON ABOVE NARRATIVE. SWELL AND FADE AS SCENE FADES.

Fred: I see you, Mary! Come on! Get out from behind that bush!

Mary: (Off mike) Aw gee!, Frederick. Don't yell at me that way!

Fred Well, what do you expect....following a fellow around all the time. (LOUD) And don't call me Frederic!

Mary (COMING TO MIKE) Why not, It's a nice name. I like it.

Fred Aw nertz!

Mary: And I like you.

Fred So what am I supposed to do, Rent a balcony,

Mary (GOING SNOOTY) Hardly, Mr. Sloane. I fear you'd make a most inadequate Romeo.

Fred: (Sarcastically) And who's calling you Juliet, Miss Clark, Mickey Rooney or Tyrone Power,

Mary (Hurt) Aw gee! Fred. Don't be like that.

Fred (Boiling) Well, why don't you quit following me around, Every time I take a step....

Mary (Breaking in) Because you're always getting yourself in dutch. That's why, Mr. Smarty!

Fred I don't need you to get me out of ...

Mary (BREAKING IN) You do so, too!

Fred (EXASPERATED) Why you... you nutty little snip!

Mary Fred sloane!.... I'll have you know I'm every bit of fifteen years old and.... and quite grown up too! So don't you go calling me names.

Fred: Why you're....

Mary: (B REAKING IN) And who's calling YOU grandpa these days, Mother McCree or Annie Laurie, Besides.... if you're a day over seventeen years old I'll... I'll eat every blade of grass in that field there!

Fred (READY TO REASON WITH HER NOW) Look, Mary. Don't you know it isn't nice for girls to chase men,

Mary: WHAT men,

Fred Well anyway, it isn't nice. In fact, it's wrong!

Mary That depends.

Fred On WHAT,

Mary (SIGHS) You've just no romance in you Frederic Sloane. And

Fred BREAKING IN QUICKLY AND LOUD) Don't CALL me that!

Mary Alright, Fred then . But we were fated for each other.

Fred GROANS DISMALLY)

Mary Well, our families say so. Just think of it - we've lived next door to each other ever since we were born. And your parents and my parents got acquainted in the same way. And mother says YOUR mother always had to keep YOUR father from getting into trouble when he was a kid just like I have to do for you now. And I think it's definitely and utterly up to you and me to follow our families' traditions. So there.

Fred (MOCKING HER) Definitely and utterly. nertz!

Mary And I know where you're going too! You've been talking about it for days.

Fred SUSPICIOUS) Yeah, (TRYING TO SIDETRACK HER) Well... I'm out for a walk. And I'm minding my own business while I'm doing it too. Or I would be.... if it weren't for you

Mary Oh! Is that so, (SARCASTICALLY) I don't suppose Mr. J. Waldron-Smith's new monoplane has anything to do with it, huh,

Fred (TRYING TO PLAY THE INNOCENT) Whatever put THAT into your head,

Mary: I know YOU, Fred Sloane. And whenever you get an
(More)

idea..... well!

Fred Oh yeah!

Mary I know you want to get a close-up of that new ship.
And when you asked J. Waldron-Smith could you come
over to his private hangar and flying field... he
acted just the way he...

Fred (INTERRUPTING WITH EXASPERATION* Why does a dud like
him always get the breaks! Gosh! he's got money and..
..... and

Mary A new ~~air~~ monoplane that he won't let you come near.
So now.... you're about to trespass on his private
flying field.

Fred Well!... what are YOU going to do about it,

Mary / I like, you, Fred. And I know J. Waldron-Smith....
knew him before his father had that rainfall of money
/ from that rich relative of theirs that died J.
is still a.... a rodent and ..

Fred (BREAKING IN) Rat, is the word.

Mary And he doesn't like you. And if he catches you
around his monoplane.....well!

Fred I can take care of myself!

Mary With J., yes. But you know J. He'll call a cop.

Fred Aw gee, Mary! I've ^{just} got to have a look... a close
look.... at this new monoplane job of his!

Mary But WHY,

Fred Gosh! It's the latest thing in the air I
can get close enough to... to (TRYING TO EXPLAIN)
Aw, Mary! I'm tired of model jobs... paper wings
and elastic engines. I want the real thing. And a

(MORE)

fallow's got to know about planes these days. If I had.... well, just enough knowledge of real planes, maybe I could get a job.

Mary But fooling around J.'s plane is " jail." (GIGGLES)
Get it, Fooling around J.'s....

Fred (SNEERING) I get it! I get it! And it ain't funny.

Mary No romance No ~~sense~~ sense of humor.

Fred Well, I've a sense of duty to my country. Things are happening in America these days. Factories need young fellows with some technical knowledge about planes. So if J. wont let me have a look at his plane.... I'll TAKE a look. And I'll keep on taking looks.... until I learn enough about (DESPERATE)
Mary, I've just got to! I'd go to Tech school if I could earn themoney. Honest I would. But....

Mary (SYMPATHETICALLY) I know, Fred (SIGHS) Well! A woman has to stick by her man.... especially in his hour of need. So if J. catches you in his hangar... he'll catch me too. ✓

"Fred What!

Mary I'm going with you (GIGGLING) I'd like to get a close up of that ship myself. Come on Frederic.
Let's go.

Fred Dont call me that!

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE

Fred (QUIETLY AND CLOSE) Shut the hanger door behind you.

SOUND (OFF MIKE) CLOSE DOOR NOISILY

Mary (OFF MIKE) Gosh! I didn't mean to....

Fred (INTERRUPTING ANGRILY) Not so much noise, dumb bunny!

Mary (COMING TO MIKE* Oh, stop your growling! And for goodness sake! Why'd you want to close the door and shut out all the light!

Fred Aw keep your hat on! There's a light switch around here somewhere!

Mary: But they'll... somebody will

Fred (BREAKING IN) Oh, here it is!

SOUND CLICK OF LIGHT SWITCH

Mary But Fred! Somebody outside might see the lights turned on in here. Then what,

Fred Aw don't be so chicken-hearted! You wanted to come along, didn 't you,

Mary (HESITANTLY) Yes.....but suppose we get caught in here felling around with J.'s plane, That other hanger isnt's fifty feet away from this one, you know.

Fred So what,

Mary Well..... I.....

Fred Forget it! There's nobody within a mile of this place. It's only three o'clock in the afternoon.. which is practically the middle of the night for J. {CHANGE OF TONE} Just look at that ship! Isnt it a honey!

Mary (ADMIRINGLY) Hmmm-hmmmmmm.

Fred Boy! Wouldnt I like to own a job like that!

Mary Gee! I wish you did! And couldn't we just go places and places and places and....

Fred (INTERRUPTING) That's enough places already! Besides, if I owned this baby I wouldn't spend all my time just flying it. I'd.... I'd take it apart and put it back together again. I'd do that over and over and over!

Mary: But WHY, Frederic,

Fred Quit calling me that! (SIGHS WITH EXASPERATION) Aw, you don't know from nothing, dumb bunny!

Mary: And you quit calling me THAT!

Fred (SNORTS) Look, Mary! It's this way! Defense is the big thing in this country right now. And that means planes and more planes

Mary Oh, I know That!

Fred Oh you do, Well, what're you going to use to get 'em, Aladdin's lamp,

Mary. Well....

Fred See..... there you are! Dumb bunny, don't you know somebody's got to build those planes,

Mary Quit calling me....

Fred (BREAKING IN) And that takes designers, draftsmen, engineers and,,, and young guys like me to work in factories....

J. (OFF MIKE) (BREAKING IN ON WORD "IN") What th' sam-hill are you doing in my hanger, Fred Soan,

Mary Gosh! It's J.!

(coming to mike)

J. Thought I told you to stay away from my plane!

Fred Well! Who's hurting it, If you were a sport you'd ..

Mary (BREAKING IN) We weren't doing anything, J.!

Honest, we weren't!

J. Oh yeah! What you mean is: Fred hasn't had time yet! I know him! Two minutes near a plane and he's got the mechanic's itch!

Fred Look, J.! I

J. (INTERRUPTING) Well, you're not going to use my new job for a guinea pig! And that's final! So if you wanna learn how to take these babies apart and put 'em back together again.... go to a Tech school!

Fred I would.... If I had YOUR dough !'

J. Oh vesh, Well you wont need my dough or anybody else's for awhile. Not where you're going!

Mary (ANGRILY) J. Waldron-Smith! You wouldn't dare to..

J. (BREAKING IN) Oh no! He's trespassing on my property, ain't he,

Mary: Aw be reasonable J!

Fred Come on, Mary. Let's get out of here .

J. Leaving wont stop me from calling the cops!

Fred Okay! Then I might as well take a poke at you ?

J. Now...now wait a minute, Fred I.... I....

Fred Yellow, hup,

J Well, you're got no business tresspassing on my....

Mary Both of you stop that and listen to me!

G randma (OFF MIKE) No! Listen to me ?

J. G randma, I just caught Fred and Mary in here...

Grandma (COMING TO MIKE* Keep q uiet, you selfish young whippersnapper! I know what you've

(more)

caught.... a bad case of swell-head.... That's what!

Mary Mrs Smith, we weren't doing....

Grandma (BR'AKING IN) Never mind explaining, Mary I heard the whole thing.

Fred I just wanted to....

Grandma (INTERRUPTING) I was with J. in the other hanger when he saw the lights in this one.

J? Granma, these two were....

Grandma Quiet! (PAUSE) Now you listen to me, Mr. J. Waldren-Smith! I can remember when Fred and Mary were your very best friends. (Snorts) But that was before your uncle died and left you a little too much money for your own good. In the old days... before you were hopping off in a plane to visit a sub-deb here and one there... Fred was a pretty good pal of yours. Mary is the time he's let you use ~~this or that of his~~ *his things!*

J. But Grandma! a plane's different... Besides... Fred just wants to... he's.... he's destructive!

Grandma: He's WHAT,

Mary J. Means.... Fred likes to take things apart and put them back together.

J. Only he can't. He doesn't know how!

Mary (SHARPLY) But he could learn... if only he had the chance! Make no mistake about THAT J. Waldron-Smith!

J. Aw you're just sweet on...

Grandma Quiet, J!

J. Aw Grandma

Grandma Now tell me, Fred... what brought you here today,
 X You know J. IS right about your being here. It IS
 trespassing.

Fred I... I.... Well I wasn't going to TOUCH J's plane.

Mary. It's like this, Mrs. Smith! Fred's all het up
 about this Defense Program. Hewants to learn how
 to build planes, or know enough about 'em to get
 a job in a place where they build 'em

Grandma (CHUCKLES) Guess that's on the minds of most
 youngsters now-a-days.

Mary But you see.. Fred can't scrape up enough money to
 pay his way through a Tech school or wherever it
 is you learn such things.

Grandma I see. I see (SURPRISED) But Fred! Didnt you
 know, There's a school where you can learn the
 very things I think you want to know.

Fred Sure! But what about the tuition,

Grandma Well.... I know people who've attended the
 school I'm talking about a nd some of them
 have had less money than you have.

Fred (EXCITED) Yeah, No kidding,

Grandma (CHUCKLING) No kidding. I'll let you in on a
 little secret- you could probably enroll for
 nothing. And if you're interested, I'll
 take you to see the head instructor there.

Fred Am' I interested! You bet I am!

Grandma Fine! I'll take you there, right now if you
 like, the schoo'l's in Sky Harbor.

Fred Thanks! But before we go... er

Grandma Yes,

Fred Could I take... just one poke at J., Right in the eye so's it would be a nice purple shiner,

Mary (WARNING FRED) Frederic! L

Fred Don't call me that!

(MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE)

Fred (FADE IN) (AWED) Oh gee! Mister, I didn't know!

Jenks Jenks is the name.

Fred I mean Lieut. Jenks But Mrs. Smith is kind of...
I mean she's....er....

Mary Go right ahead, Mr. Smarty, and put your foot in it!

Grandma (CHUCKLING) Well, Fred, I AM a student here.
By any chance.... do you think me too old,

Fred Well I.... That is.... ere

Mary Pay no attention to him, Mrs. Smith (CONFIDENTIALLY)
You see, Fred knows very little about us women.
In fact he's backward... definitely and utterly
so... when it comes to our sex.

Fred (MOCKING HER) Definitely and utterly. Nertz!

Mary Well you don't know anything about women! You
think just because Mrs. Smith is 60 years old and
a grandmother she positively couldn't's be
interested in something that..

Fred (BREAKING IN) Quiet , dumb bunny! I wanna get a
line on this school. So let Mr... I mean Lieut.
Jenks do the talking.

Jenks (CHUCKLIN) Just what is it you want to know, Fred,

Fred Well... what kind of a place IS this, And what
can a fellow like me get out of it,

Jenks: Well, I should imagine... you'll get out of our school just about what you put into it. And that's the way it is with everything in life. At least, I've found it so.

Fred Yes sir.

Jenks: Now Sky Harbor is a ground school. Our students come from many walks of life and have varying kinds of experience.

Grandma Fred, some of the students here have merely a grammar-school background. Others are high-school and college graduates. Among them are doctors, lawyers, nurses, people in business. ^{Some} ~~Some~~ students are very well off. Others are ~~quite~~ ^{quite} poor. But all of them have the same objective. They're preparing to help defend their country. But I didnt mean to interrupt you Lieutenant.

Jenks: No interruptin at all. Glad you brought that out.

Fred: Gee! And what do you teach 'em?

Jenks. Well, our courses run for ten weeks. There are five weeks of theory and five weeks of practical work.

Fred Gosh!

Mary Mister do you take....

Fred (INTERRUPTING) Quiet! I wanna hear this!

Jenks: The work in theory includes the subjects on engines, ignition and carburetion. Students are given the principles of navigation.

Fred Latitude and longitude and "shooting the sun",

Jenks (CHUCKLING) Certainly! And you'll learn a bit about dead reckoning and pilotage too. If you become a student here, you'll learn the coordination of hands and feet as well as how to (orientate) yourself by radio range signals. We'll teach you the use of various instruments and how to find your position in the air after a barrel-roll, a shandell, and a loop.

Fred Gee! Oh boy! oh boy. oh boy!

Jenks : After five weeks of theory, each student is given the regular civil aeronautics authority test. If you pass with an average of eighty five or better- you begin the five weeks course in practical work.

Fred: How about radio,

Jenks: You'll get plenty in theory class and practical class too.

Fred Gosh

Jenks: In the practical work, you'll learn to take apart and put together magnetos, oil pumps, radial engine how to dope on a patch... how to repair a crack-up, how to use micrometers and vernier calipers, how to use air- hammers and rigeting hammers for sheet metal work

Fred Gee wheez!

Nenks : The course also includes work in welding and the use of the aircraft.. acetelyne.. torch and gauge. Incidentally Fred, all our students who've passed this work, and who have wanted such employment, have been hired by air-craft companies to work in their light sheet-metal and welding departments.

Fred But, Lieutenant Doesnt it cost a lot to go to
school here,

Jenks. Fred, this school was set up by the Work Projects
Administration. This is a WPA school. It's
free, Fred.

Mary Gosh! Did you hear that Frederic,

Fred My ears are practically a pair of tunnels. But
dont CALL me that.

MUSIC IN AND SWELL AND FADE FOR CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT.

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ANNOUNCEMENT.

You have just heard WPA HEADLINES OF THE WEEK, another in the series of weekly broadcasts devoted to the work being done in your community. This Federal agency is anxious for you to know just what this work is and how it affects your community. In this brief sketch, we have endeavored to show how the defense training program operates, and how it functions as an agency for the public welfare. If you are interested in further information concerning WPA classes, write to Robert W. Allen, State WPA Administrator, 1060 Broad St, Newark, N.J.

This sketch was written by Hughes Allison of the N.J. Writers Project.

W.P.A. HEADLINES OF THE WEEK will be presented again at this same time next week.